

# The Echo

The Town of  
**GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



**January, 1987**

## **PROPERTY OWNERS SHOCKED AT ASSESSMENTS**

By Carlotta Anderson

Along with the welcome holiday packages and cards delivered in town last month came a dreaded communication--the new three-year tax assessment. It has not been the custom in recent years for it to go down, or even reflect a gradual rise, and this time was no exception. Many residents actually found the tax assessor had calculated the value of their land had doubled since 1984 and the total value of the property had been raised 50 percent or more.

The proposed full value of a property (Box 7 on the Notice of Assessment) is supposed to reflect its true market value, according to Nelson Bortz, Field Supervisor of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. This was calculated on the basis of houses sold in Glen Echo from April 1984 to mid-1986. As it worked out, the total value of all property in the Glen Echo subdivision went up 27 percent in the tax assessor's estimate, compared to 10 percent in Fairway Hills, he said.

The assessor tries to come up with the true value of the building (Item 6), according to Mr. Bortz, which sometimes results in an extremely high land value (Item 5). Thus, some lots in Glen Echo which are under 5,000 square feet but which are considered to have a premium "river view" have been valued at over

### **NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, January 12--8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the Clerk-Treasurer if you want to add an item to the agenda.

# The Echo

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<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	
Debbie Beers	229-7308
Nancy Long	334-2865 or 229-0196
Harry Odell	229-4494
Bill Shultz	229-1269
<b>CLERK-TREASURER</b>	
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Nancy Helmig	229-0893
Jane Eldredge	229-4110
Renny Springuel	320-2699
Mary Masula, alternate	229-6521

## SHORT TAKES

The Park Service has insufficient staff and resources to deal with the problem of accidents on the Cabin John Parkway access roads below Glen Echo, Superintendent John Byrne told Mayor Kuster last month.

He acknowledged that there is a problem at that location, which he has brought to the attention of his superiors.

Mr. Byrne said the Park Service would like to turn the responsibility for that roadway over to the county, according to the Mayor, but it has the same budgetary and staffing limitations. The jurisdiction is a "borderline" case, the Mayor said.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Glen Echo Park Foundation has received tax-exempt status. It is now waiting for approval of its proposal from the Park Service.

Mayor Fred Kuster is assistant treasurer of the organization. Nancy Long is on the executive committee. The Foundation has received approximately \$20,000 in donations.

A benefit concert for the Foundation will take place on Monday, February 2, at 8:00 p.m., at Gaston Hall, Georgetown University. The performer will be Taj Mahal, who performs a blend of blues/rock/folk. The show will be sponsored by the Folklore Society of Washington.

## **NEW CONTRACT ON LA HAUTE CUISINE PROPERTY Simmons Realty Contract Terminated**

A professional photographer and his wife have bought the property at 6107 Bryn Mawr Avenue which was formerly the location of La Haute Cuisine catering service. A previous contract on the property by the Simmons Realty company fell through.

Peter Garfield, who has been renting a warehouse in Georgetown as a photo studio for the past 10 years, went to settlement on the property on December 26, according to Realtor Liza Nichols of Shannon and Luchs. The selling price was \$295,000, she said.

Mr. Garfield cannot be granted an occupancy permit from the county until he actually occupies the space and it can be inspected. The present owner, Tony Tannouse, is in the process of cleaning out his equipment and Mr. Garfield is expected to move in around the end of January, Ms. Nichols said.

In order to receive an occupancy permit, the amount of business generated must coincide with the available parking space on the property. There is space for 10 to 12 cars in the driveway and rear yard, Mr. Tannouse calculated.

Ms. Nichols, who is a resident of Wellesley Circle, said she did not encourage any prospective buyers to think in terms of a restaurant and bar. "I personally felt strongly about not having liquor served there," she said. She found most people considerate of the town's wishes and views, she said.

---Carlotta Anderson

## **OBSTRUCTIONS OF SIDEWALKS TO BE MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS**

By Jim Anderson

Residents who cause obstructions of town streets and sidewalks will be subject to county-issued fines, according to a town ordinance now under consideration.

Town Attorney Tom Craven presented the proposed ordinance at the Town Council's December meeting. It would permit the town to deal with a series of offenses, from abandoned cars to toys left on the sidewalk, by means of Municipal Infraction notices.

Under such an ordinance, an alleged offender would be first served notice of the offense. If it continued, the offender would be subject to a fine levied by the

Montgomery County courts. The offense would be considered civil, rather than criminal, but the Town of Glen Echo would not have to pay legal costs, as is now the case.

Councilman Odell said he had been loath to issue Municipal Infraction notices for offenses already covered under these laws "out of sheer cowardice" and was always concerned about the reaction of some irate, irrational property-owner. He said he was told by the county police to be careful and had been told that the police, in parallel cases, have been willing to park outside the house while the notice was being delivered.

---continued on page 4

## RESTAURANT MANAGER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS WITH COUNCIL

By Michelle Corder

Alex Stylos, a representative of the Glen Echo Station restaurant, discussed the runoff problem on Oberlin Avenue and the parking problem on Tulane Avenue with the Town Council at its December 8 meeting. At past Council meetings, both problems have been attributed to restaurant activities.

Mr. Stylos suggested that there probably always had been a runoff of sediment onto Oberlin. This reporter, who lives on Oberlin, pointed out that while it is true there had been a heavy flow of water down the street in the past, there is now clay from the parking lot surface flowing along with the water. This new development makes it difficult to rake leaves, and makes a dangerously slippery film during and after rainfall.

Mr. Stylos responded that the restaurant management was planning to tar and chip the parking lot. The stones have already been delivered for this purpose. This action is expected to stop the debris, but not the flow of water, and the county has indicated there is need for a drainage pipe near the restaurant parking lot on Oberlin.

The county is not going to require a storm water management permit for the location, which would require an engineered plan, Mayor Kuster told The Echo. He said the county is just going to inform the town what should be done to remedy the storm water problem.

Mr. Stylos also responded to the parking complaints of George Ford, owner of the adjoining property on Tulane Avenue. He contended Mr. Ford was parking his



7687 MacArthur Boulevard  
Cabin John, MD 20818  
301-229-3141

George Petrides  
Owner

Bird feeders and seed for America's fastest growing hobby.

### OBSTRUCTIONS (from p. 3)

Mailing a Municipal Infraction notice is not always sufficient, because courts require proof that it was received by the person intended and registered letters were not always picked up.

Mr. Craven suggested that a professional process server could be authorized. In the case of one standing Infraction Notice, involving a pet, Mayor Kuster said he would accompany the Animal Control Officer to deliver it.

The Council was in general agreement about the new ordinance, which would widen the Municipal Infraction machinery, and asked Mr. Craven to revise it to include garbage cans left on the public rights-of-way.

Under the new language, Municipal Infraction Notices could be issued for obstructions which would include a motor vehicle, bicycle, wagon, wheeled play toy, gate and any shrub or foliage which projects from any private property.

If a property owner failed to act on an obstruction, the town could do the work and assess the owner for the cost plus six percent per year.

The issue will come up at the next meeting of the Council.

---continued on page 6

## ASSESSMENTS MAY BE APPEALED

(from p. 1)

\$100,000 in order to make the total value correspond to what the assessor thinks the property could sell for. Houses above the Parkway were considered to have the advantage of a view, but not any disadvantage of noise from the roadway, Mr. Bortz said.

Of the two lots sold in town during the period, one on Harvard Avenue brought \$44,000 in 1985 (it has now been assessed at \$70,000) and the other on Wellesley Circle sold in 1986 for around \$50,000. "Land is a big argument," Mr. Bortz said, "but if we are wrong on the land, the improvements (buildings) would have to go up. We look at the total value of the property."

The policy is to depreciate houses with age unless there have been renovations or the house has been very well maintained. Since the assessor frequently does not enter the house or even speak with the homeowner, he must judge its condition from the exterior. He then attempts to compare it to another similar house which was one of the nine which were sold since 1984 in order to estimate what its market value is. (See box in next column.)

Mr. Bortz is well aware that these calculations are "not a perfect science" and that mistakes might have been made. If a homeowner feels the property could not be sold for the proposed full value, he may appeal within 45 days of the date of the assessment notice. (Instructions are on the reverse of the notice). The appeal may either be made in writing by outlining reasons why the assessment seems out of line or through a meeting with the assessor. If the appeal is rejected and the homeowner receives a final notice, he can go to the

### Sale Prices of Houses Used by Tax Assessor to Calculate 1987 Values

48 Wellesley.....	\$225,000
7315 Columbia.....	\$145,000
34 Wellesley.....	\$288,000
23 Wellesley.....	\$138,000
6101 Bryn Mawr.....	\$180,000
20 Wellesley.....	\$165,000
41 Wellesley.....	\$167,000
6010 Princeton.....	\$207,000
6000 Harvard.....	\$265,000

Tax Assessment Appeal Board, and, if that fails, to the Tax Court in Baltimore.

There is also a tax credit program for homeowners of all ages whose income falls below a certain level. For information on this program, call 1-800-492-3790.

It should be borne in mind by the Glen Echo resident aghast at the new assessment that county law limits the actual taxable increase to 15 percent per year. Thus, it might be a number of years before the taxes reflected the total assessed value. The only property owners not entitled to the 15 percent limitation are those who purchased the property in 1986 or who made major changes or rehabilitation to their houses.

A property owner may request a copy of the assessment work sheet, which explains the calculations for land value, depreciation, the condition of the house and the market value indicator. After filing an appeal, one may also request copies of the work sheets for any other properties by paying \$1 for each one.

## ANIMAL BOARD NEWS

Of the eight owners of unlicensed pets who were sent registered letters by the Animal Control Board in November, three responded and paid the doubled fees which were imposed for late licensing.

A fourth, owner of the only pet in town which does not have an up-to-date rabies inoculation, has been excused for the time being on medical grounds. A veterinarian verified that the animal's health precluded an inoculation at this time.

The remaining pet owners are now liable for tripled fees. If these fees are not paid promptly, they will receive a citation, according to Animal Control Board chairman Nancy Helmig.

## RESTAURANT (from p.4)

vehicles as close as possible to the restaurant entrance and sometimes leaving them there overnight in an apparent attempt to protest the fact that he could not always find a place to park in front of his house. Mr. Stylos acknowledged that he instructed his staff to park along Tulane instead of in the parking lot to make room for patrons "on busy days."

Other sources of congestion on Tulane and Oberlin Avenues discussed at the Council meeting are caused by both students attending classes at the Park and engineers using the mobile field office parked near the town basketball court.

---Carlotta Anderson  
contributed to this report.

## BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKS REFUGE FOR HOMELESS

Rev. David Cole of the Glen Echo Baptist Church has asked the town to consider making available the Town Hall to the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

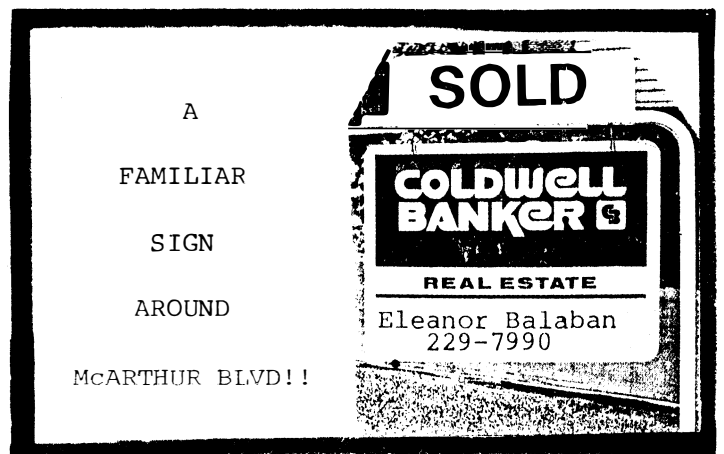
"Needs are desperate" for temporary shelter, he wrote Mayor Kuster. He did not give specifics of how he would propose using the Hall.

The Town Council wanted to know who is fostering the program, how many individuals would be sheltered and for how long and what the legal implications would be before discussing the proposal further. Town Attorney Craven was not sure if an occupancy permit would be required.

Councilwoman Long expressed strong opposition, saying the Town Hall was not an appropriate place for children, with no safe place to play outdoors and inadequate health facilities.

The Council requested that Rev. Cole be invited to appear at the next meeting.

--Michelle Corder



## SANTA COMES TO GLEN ECHO

### Good Turnout at Holiday Party

The Town Hall was festively decorated and a chamber music duo serenaded some 70 residents who turned out for the annual town holiday party on December 14.

Everyone brought food for a sumptuous buffet dinner that was so successful The Echo received requests to publish the recipes (See adjoining column). Later in the evening the children were thrilled when Santa Claus appeared. There was a drawing for the door prize, a 13-inch color television set, won by Jim Anderson.

The party was organized by the town social committee. Decorations were done by Holly Shimizu, Jane Stevenson and Jim Horwitz. The Springuel family decorated the outside tree.

La Haute Cuisine caterers donated rental of the dishes, silverware and tables. Michael Kligerman and resident Susan Tamulevich played violin and piano duos. An inside Christmas tree was donated by the tree merchants at MacArthur Boulevard and Wilson Lane.

Kate Horwitz led the children in songs, accompanied by Edie Springuel on guitar. The Sproul family brought the sound system.

The television set was a gift the town obtained by purchasing a \$10,000 Certificate of Deposit from Perpetual American Bank. The town offered it as a door prize because that seemed a fair way to dispose of a gift which belonged to the taxpayers, according to Clerk-Treasurer Lois Carroll.

---Carlotta Anderson

## HOLIDAY PARTY RECIPES

Here are a few of the recipes enjoyed by participants in the town Holiday Party. If you would like to see others printed in future issues of The Echo, please pass your requests to the editor.

### Kate Horwitz's Wassail

Make a syrup by boiling the following ingredients for five minutes:

2-1/2 c. sugar  
1-1/4 c. water  
4 dozen whole cloves  
6 sticks cinnamon  
3 crushed nutmegs  
Peel of 3 lemons and 2 oranges

Strain syrup. Add:

4 c. hot lemon juice  
1/4 can frozen orange juice concentrate  
1 can pineapple juice  
1/2 c. pineapple chunks  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Heat well, but do not boil.  
Add 4 c. red wine, or Madeira, Port or Sherry.

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(See next page for more recipes)

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## SHORT TAKES

A daughter was born on December 16 to Julie and Edd Barrows, who formerly resided at 21 Wellesley Circle. Melissa Louisa Barrows entered the world at Sibley Hospital weighing eight pounds, two ounces. She looks like Edd, according to Julie, and has dark brown hair.

## Town Council Highlights

### Mary Masulla's Spinach and Potato Casserole

2 10 oz. packages frozen chopped spinach

1 10-3/4 can\* of potato soup

8 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded  
\*cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine spinach and soup in one quart baking dish and mix well. Sprinkle cheese over top. Bake until heated through, about 20 minutes.

(From Too Busy to Cook by Bon Appetit Magazine)

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### Fred Kuster's Beef Brisket

Sprinkle onion salt, garlic salt and regular salt on top of one beef brisket. Slice one medium onion over top. Pour on one bottle Wright's Liquid Smoke. Put in bag or closed pan and marinate overnight.

The next morning pour everything off including the onion. Add another medium onion, sliced, a small bottle Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and 1/4 c. sherry. Cover pan tightly with aluminum foil.

Bake at 275 degrees for five hours. Take cover off and add one bottle commercial barbecue sauce. Cook uncovered an additional hour. Let sit 15 minutes and then slice against the grain.

(From a Monroe County, Louisiana cookbook).



December 8

The Council voted to accept the bid of \$1,900 by the Columbia Iron Works for 73 feet of iron picket fence, which would continue the present fencing around the lawn of the Town Hall. The low, black fence will be the same as that along the driveway near the Post Office entrance. The next nearest bid was \$2,619 from Bethesda Iron Works, according to Councilman Harry Odell, charged with Town Hall matters...

Councilman Odell also brought bids for the retiling of the hall and stairs in the Town Hall. One bid, from John Ligon, would lay new tiles on top of the old for \$1,352. Woodmont Carter Co. proposed taking up all the existing tiles and laying new for \$1,799.60. Councilman Odell recommended the latter and the Woodmont bid was unanimously approved...

A town resident complained that Osamu Shimizu is running a landscaping business from his properties on Bryn Mawr Avenue and that loads of dirt and landscaping materials are being brought to and from town, causing blocking of town streets. Town attorney Tom Craven will send a letter to Mr. Shimizu saying that he should not be running a business in a residential area.....

The Council also met in an executive session, from which the public was excluded.

--Jim Anderson and Michelle Corder

## Local Man Collects for West Virginia Flood Relief

Tillie McNoldy has submitted the following poem written by Danny Harris of Cabin John, who has been active in the West Virginia flood relief project.

Mr. Harris is Director/Vice President of People for America, Inc., a non-profit corporation assisting families and schools devastated by the 1985 flood. If you would like to help with contributions of food, money, clothing or your time, you may contact him at 593-1600 (office) or 229-7982 (home).

### THE WEST VIRGINIA FLOOD OF '85

It came their way under clouds of  
gray,  
the flood, and its devastation.  
It brought together friends and  
relatives,  
and volunteers across this nation.  
It happened in the West Va.  
mountaintowns,  
where the rivers run together,  
And would cause death and  
destruction  
from ordinary rainy weather.  
I couldn't believe it until I saw,  
the hurt on the people's faces,  
the homes, cars and personal  
belongings  
in so many different places.  
The river banks were lined with  
carcasses  
of horses, cows and deer,  
and I closed my eyes for a moment,  
and hoped they would disappear.  
I knew then I wasn't dreaming,  
'cause  
the emotions took their toll,  
I saw children, men and women,  
with tears they couldn't control.  
I love those mountain people,  
they're kind, they're proud and  
strong.  
I feel as though I'm part of their  
families,  
and that I've known them all along.  
I'll keep going back to help  
those good people,

## Welcome Neighbors

Another newcomer who grew up in the area and wanted to move back has come to Glen Echo. Ed Pierce, a former resident of Mohican Hills and a Whitman High School graduate, moved to 6104 Harvard Avenue in September with wife, Barbara, and daughters Michelle, 8, and Kellie, 6.

Ed says it's been a lot of fun since they moved here. The house remodeling they've engaged in has been "really therapeutic, and it's amazing how many people came up, introduced themselves and offered to lend a hand," he said.

Ed, a photographer, owns Pierce's of Potomac photo studio, located at Tuckerman and Seven Locks Road. He was formerly in retail, bought his first camera eight years ago and specializes in portraits and wedding photography. He also spends 40 days a year lecturing on photography across the country.

Barbara, who grew up in Wheaton, also works in the studio. They both enjoy skiing and hiking. The children attend Bannockburn Elementary School.



Till I either pass away or old  
age over-takes me, and I'm  
forced to stay.  
This experience has been so  
rewarding,  
I wouldn't trade it for anything.  
I like to see the smiles on the  
faces,  
and the happiness I help to bring.

## SHORT TAKES

Sculptor Raya Bodnarchuk was featured in the December 3 issue of Potomac Almanac because she has been commissioned to design a piece for the Potomac Community Library.

The wooden work, which will stand at the library entrance, will be slightly larger than life-size and will depict a woman holding a set of books and standing beside a dog, according to the newspaper. It is expected to be installed sometime next summer.

Raya's work was chosen from some 200 entries. It represents part of the recently passed "art in public architecture" legislation, which stipulates that one percent of all construction costs of public buildings be used for art.

Raya, who lives on Harvard Avenue, is an artist in residence at Glen Echo Park.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Bannockburn community is engaged in an Oral History Project tracing the history of its area, according to the Bannockburn Newsletter. Past and present residents who were active in the development of the community are being interviewed, and photos and records of community life are being collected.



## CLASSIFIED

TYPING SERVICES: Call Jennifer, 229-9121.

\* \* \* \* \*

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.50 per line of 30 spaces or fewer. Display ads, \$2 per column inch. Ads may be left with Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Avenue, Glen Echo, or mailed to The Echo, P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812 (stamp required). Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo." PLEASE DO NOT PHONE ADS TO EDITOR. Ad Deadline: 24th of each month.

### ADVENTURE THEATRE

Dragonsong

January 17 to February 22

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.  
For reservations call 320-5331.

### EXTRA ECHOS

The Echo is distributed to Glen Echo residents on the weekend before the Town Council meeting, which takes place on the second Monday of each month. If you should not receive a copy, you may find an extra one at the front counter of the Glen Echo Pharmacy or at the Post Office. Just ask a clerk.